

State of New Hampshire

Department of State Bureau of Securities Regulation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FRAUDSTERS TARGET SANDWICH GENERATION INVESTORS

Concord, NH (December 29, 2008) - The New Hampshire Bureau of Securities Regulation announced a new investor education program to provide members of the Sandwich Generation - adults who are raising children while taking care of aging parents - with the information and tools they need to be financially prepared and protect their assets from fraud. When there are financial challenges, perpetrators of fraud use this fear to prey on investors.

"Thousands of New Hampshire adults are facing a generational sandwich that's putting an economic squeeze on everyone involved," said Mark Connolly, Director of the New Hampshire Bureau of Securities Regulation. "Nearly half of those in the Sandwich Generation don't have enough money to finance their own retirement but consider paying for their children's college tuition, a parental responsibility, while juggling the rising cost of care for their parents." These challenges are greater during the current volatile financial markets."

Nationally, an estimated 16 million members of the Sandwich Generation face the financial challenge of balancing their own economic needs with those of their

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families. Connolly noted that many members of the Sandwich Generation don't realize that the financial security of their children and parents can ultimately affect their own financial security. When you combine the effect of current market financial market conditions as well as the fact that we are all living longer, you are looking at millions of stressed families across North America. We're concerned that this stress may make the Sandwich Generation more susceptible to fraud, depleting the financial resources they need to maintain their families.

This Sandwich Outreach Program was developed in conjunction with the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA) and can be accessed through the Bureau's website at www.sos.nh.gov/securities. The program is designed to help adults sandwiched in the middle of competing financial responsibilities with information and guidance on practical steps they can take to shore up their financial future. The program urges adults to conduct a "Financial Checkup" in the following areas: Your Children, You and your Parents.

For more information contact the New Hampshire Bureau of Securities Regulation (603) 271-1463 or call the Investor Hotline at 800 994-4200.